The Sun.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1906.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The House and the Consular Bill.

For the honor of the House it is to be hoped that its act as a body will rebuke the reported attitude of some of its members in the matter of reform in the consular service. The bill as it came back from the Senate was stripped of one of its most desirable features, but enough was left to insure a decided improvement on present conditions. The indications are that the bill will be approved by the House committee to which it has been referred, but opposition is possible when it comes before the House.

Commenting on its probable reception, the *Washington Star* says:

"The complaint of some of the members of the House against the bill is twofold: First, that it provides the Senate with some very desirable patronage to the probable exclusion of the House; secondly, that it continues in office, under a species of civil service, all the consular force, and deprives Representatives in Congress from hereafter filling any vacancies that might occur."

Admitting the influence of patronage in public affairs, it is still difficult to believe that our national welfare and our international interests are in danger of being sold so cheaply.

If there be any Representatives who really hold the views above indicated, it might be well for some recognized authority to intimate in their hearing that the creation of berths for place hunters is not the principal reason for maintaining a consular corps.

Then and Now.

Nothing should be done, protests a coterie of Odell office holders at Albany, to disturb the tranquillity of the Republican party organization in the State on the eve of the approaching important State election. They mean that ODELL should not be retired at this time from his post of chairman of the Republican State committee, that everything should "proceed in orderly fashion" and that ODELL should be allowed to hold on until the State convention in the fall.

For the information of all concerned, and not for a moment considering the dreadful condition of the party in the State because of Odellism, it may be instructive to recall ODELL's method of procedure early in November, 1903. Without warning ODELL left the Governor's chair in Albany, came to New York city, corralled a number of the Republican Assembly district leaders and announced that M. LINN BRUCE, president of the New York Republican county committee, must be unseated at the annual meeting of the committee in December of that year. BRUCE had made, in the opinion of politicians, a successful record as president of the county committee. BRUCE's friends became deeply interested in the situation and in the declaration that ODELL wanted his head. On November 19, 1903, twenty-five of the thirty-five Assembly district leaders signed a paper insisting on the retention of BRUCE as president of the committee.

GEORGE W. DUNN, chairman of the Republican State committee at the time, favored the retention of BRUCE. ODELL thereupon hurled a threat at DUNN to the effect that if he didn't keep his hands off DUNN would be displaced as a State Railroad Commissioner. ODELL had further conferences with the Assembly district leaders of New York county, declaring all the time that he was satisfied with BRUCE because everybody of moment in the party had told ODELL that they also were satisfied with BRUCE. ODELL, however, had determined to displace BRUCE, and after further talk BRUCE announced that he could not be a candidate for reelection as president of the New York Republican county committee, even though twenty-five of the thirty-five leaders had declared for him. On December 13 ODELL displaced BRUCE and substituted in his place CHARLES H. MURRAY, and at the same time he made WILLIAM HALPIN chairman of the executive committee of the county committee. ODELL did everything possible to hamstring MURRAY. HALPIN was the real president of the committee because of ODELL's attitude toward MURRAY, and eventually ODELL gave MURRAY a place on the Court of Claims bench of the State to get him out of the way and carried out his original intention by making HALPIN his sole satrap over the committee.

ODELL then went after DUNN, who through many difficulties had engineered the campaign of 1902, by which ODELL was reelected Governor by the plurality of 8,803. Late in December, 1903, ODELL put in motion the machinery by which he as Governor of the State, and then in control of the New York Republican county committee, could carry out his original and fiercer intention to displace DUNN as chairman of the Republican State committee. On December 31, 1903, ODELL announced that DUNN "is to go." Not a word was heard then on the part of ODELL, not a murmur, not a lisp came from his followers that his violent disturbance of BRUCE and his decision to displace DUNN would disturb the tranquillity of the great Presidential election of 1904.

On February 19, 1904, DUNN issued, as State chairman, the call for the Republican State convention, to be held at Carnegie Hall in New York city on April 27. This convention was to select the delegates at large and their alternates, and the Presidential electors to the Republican national convention, which was to assemble in Chicago only two months later. On February 28 ODELL made it still plainer that he wanted DUNN's head on a charger. ODELL's attitude on the eve of the Presidential election was undisguised. As he had not cloaked his intention in the December preceding to depose BRUCE, neither did he in February make the slightest concealment of his determination to unseat DUNN, and ODELL was Governor of the State of New York at the time.

So unsettled, in fact so vitriolic, did the Republican situation in the State become because of ODELL's conduct that a great conference of Republican warriors was called to assemble at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York city on March 20. After a day of unhappy wrangling, late in the evening it was officially announced that ODELL, Governor at the time, should be selected as chairman of the State committee to be chosen at the State convention in April. DUNN announced that he would waive all contention for the sake of peace in the party.

On April 13, 1904, ODELL, Governor of the State, was chosen State chairman to succeed DUNN.

On June 18 following, or exactly two months and five days later, the Republican national convention assembled at Chicago to name ROOSEVELT and FAIRBANKS.

Notwithstanding this record, ODELL's heelers at Albany insist that he shall not be unseated at this time from his place as State chairman because of its fearsome results to the party in the State. The Republican State convention is to be held in September, seven months off. These heelers believe that if ODELL can hold on until September he will remain in his place as State chairman for another term of two years. The party is now in the slough of political perdition, brought there by ODELL and the graftsmen.

It is a political crime for which the party will be held responsible in every crossroads town and hamlet in New York to permit ODELL to retain the office of State chairman.

The Passing of a Danger.

There is steadily increasing reason to believe that the coal strike gives promise of aversion through the difficulty of bringing all of its parts into harmonious action. An effort has been made to create an artificial and heavily strained situation involving the cooperation of a half million of men. The evidences of structural weakness are already clearly apparent. Mr. JOHN MITCHELL, the leader of the movement, is losing the confidence of both the public and the members of the union of which he is the organizer and president.

Mr. MITCHELL appears to belong to the class of enthusiasts whose sense of proportion is destroyed by a temporary success. Having jumped six feet, they see no reason why they should not jump sixty feet. The anthracite branch of the United Mine Workers of America, with which Mr. MITCHELL is more directly identified than he is with the bituminous branch, is a localized industry. Bituminous coal is produced in commercial quantities in thirty different States. There is difference in conditions of labor, cost of living, and in wage rates. The decision of the recent convention that the workers in all these regions must be satisfied or there would be a general strike is almost as impossible as it is absurd. It is doubtful if JOHN MITCHELL ever has made a greater mistake than he did when he indorsed so foolish a proposition.

The anthracite miners and a large proportion of the bituminous miners have failed to show any sufficient cause for plunging the entire country into the disorder and distress which must follow a national strike. If the strike leaders are counting on the precipitation of a situation which would compel the President to repeat his course of three years ago, they should at once change their minds. In the earlier affair Mr. ROOSEVELT was fairly well backed by public opinion. In any situation which can now be foreseen as the result of a national coal strike, interference by the Executive would encounter criticism and condemnation rather than command support and approval.

While there may be on April 1 some serious local strikes, the danger of a general strike seems to be rapidly disappearing.

Education Mainly a Gratuity.

This letter from a citizen of Pennsylvania makes a criticism of recent remarks by THE SUN which seems to have pertinency to the particular words it quotes, though it has none as respects the general tone and main purpose of the article referred to:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your editorial to-day on 'The Wastefulness of Charity' you state the following: 'The municipal government is largely an institution for the benefit and relief of the poor. It provides free instruction for children and for young men and women.'

"Since when have the public school children of this country become objects of charity? Some of us have been in the habit of believing that the child rendered a service to the State by fitting itself for good citizenship.

"What has distorted THE SUN's good American view of affairs? J. R. FORST, M. D.

"GERMANTOWN, Philadelphia, Feb. 13."

In a certain and a very wide sense education in this country in our public schools and in our colleges and universities is a gratuity bestowed on all the pupils, rich and poor. As our correspondent contends it is benevolence expended as an investment from which ample return is made in the fitting for good citizenship of the child instructed. Under our system of universal, or rather manhood, suffrage, of course, the State cannot afford to intrust that function to an illiterate and undisciplined electorate. It therefore gives the education as a gratuity and even passes laws to compel children of the school ages to receive it. One of the heaviest burdens of expense borne by the States is the cost of maintaining the schools; yet, enormous as it is in the aggregate, public and legislative sentiment favors it so generally that its tendency is to increase not merely with the population but even faster than the population.

In the common schools of the United States are now enrolled more than sixteen million children, or about one-fifth of the population, under nearly half a million teachers. As this education is given to the children free it is at the bottom of the nature of a charity. The State takes them under its guardianship so far as concerns their elementary instruction and bestows on them its bounty. The State exercises a function in behalf of its citizens in this matter of education of very much the same kind as it employs in their sanitary regulation, now carried to so great an extreme of expense and of detail. Like school instruction, this sanitary regulation is a measure of self-protection for the State, since unsanitary conditions in a particular district affect injuriously the whole community in which the region is situated. Hospitals, also, are maintained for a like reason, or not merely for the particular benefit to the sick in them but that the general public health may be protected. From the cradle to the grave the poorest citizen is looked after by the municipal authorities. The whole machinery of society is organized for his benefit. The defective and the delinquent and even the vicious are looked after without regard to any share they may have in paying the cost or in increasing it. The spirit of charity extends its wings over the whole community.

Dr. FORST resents the description of the common school education as charitable, but so also the college and university may be called a benevolent institution, wholly or in great part. The latest statistics of the United States Bureau of Education enumerate 443 of these, in which the students number 139,157 young men and 41,977 young women, who contribute in tuition fees less than one-half of the total income, to say nothing of the interest on the cost of plant, appliances, &c. More than half of the education of these students is purely gratuitous. To that extent they are the recipients of charity.

Besides about $90,000,000 of productive funds, these institutions have invested in grounds and buildings, in libraries and apparatus, nearly as much more. Except for this endowment in productive funds, a gratuity to the students, most of the institutions would have to go out of business. Munificent gifts to these endowment funds have distinguished this country for many years past, yet there is not now a single university or college which is not in need of more. Applications for still further benefactions are urgently made by the oldest and most famous universities in the Union.

These facts demonstrate the truth of the position attacked by Dr. FORST. They cast no reflection on the pupils and students but prove simply that the educational advantages these enjoy are largely of the nature of a free gift by society or by individuals of wealth.

A Tragedy in the High Himalayas.

No one has yet stood on the summit of any of the higher Himalayas. Strenuous attempts have been made to reach one or another of these culminating points, but all have failed. The man who holds the record for high climbing, Dr. WORKMAN of Massachusetts, is not sanguine that any of the highest peaks will be conquered. COXWELL and GLAISHER attained in their balloon a little higher altitude than the top of Mount Everest, but that was a very different thing from reaching the same elevation above the sea and the same strata of extremely rarefied air through the tremendous exertion and strain of pulling one's self up the steepest of ice slopes.

Dangers are multiplied on the Himalayan summits that are from 4,000 to nearly 6,000 feet higher than WORKMAN's recent climb. Every danger of climbing in the Alps and Caucasus is intensified and the peril of rock or snow avalanche is greater than has been met in any other mountain region. We have only recently heard of the accident that last fall cost the lives of four men who were struggling up the south slope of Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world.

As the traveller leaves the train that has carried him to Darjeeling he sees to the north of him one of the most magnificent spectacles that the earth affords. He sees the green of subtropical verdure stretching far away; and seemingly just beyond the green, but from forty-five to fifty miles from Darjeeling, the dazzling white of the Kangchenjunga range is lifted into the upper air. The high Himalayas of Nepal and Sikhim are spread before his eyes.

All of these higher mountains have an elevation of more than 20,000 feet. Some of them are more than 25,000 feet high; and a little west of the centre of the range rises the mighty mass of Kangchenjunga, overtopping all its brother summits. It is 28,150 feet high. The top of Mount Everest may just be discerned far to the northwest, so dwarfed by nearer mountains that with all its 29,000 feet it seems insignificant; and hundreds of miles further west is K2 of the Indian Survey, which with its 28,280 feet overtops Kangchenjunga by only 130 feet. The whole southern slope of Kangchenjunga is often plainly in view from Darjeeling, and it was on this southern slope that the accident occurred.

Mr. G. CROWLEY had organized a party of alpinists to attempt the ascent of the third highest mountain. He was joined from France by Messrs. JACOT-GUILLARMOD, PACHE and REYMOND, and the Indian Government gave them an escort of Gurkha mountaineers. It was thought that their prospects were favorable. They left Darjeeling in high hope of brilliant success.

Few particulars of the accident have been received, but it is known that after the party had ascended to a height of about 21,000 feet, struggling upward in two groups, six men who were roped together were swept from their feet by an avalanche and carried over a precipice. PACHE and three Gurkhas were killed, and JACOT-GUILLARMOD and DE RIGHI were badly wounded. Further climbing was abandoned, but Mr. CROWLEY says that he will renew the attempt.

This is the only attack of mountaineers upon the higher peaks of the Kangchenjunga range, and it remains to be seen whether the tragical result will very soon whet the appetite of alpinists for further experience on the slopes of these formidable mountains. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD visited them several years ago to do some high climbing, but a fall of three feet of snow just as he reached the base of Kangchenjunga put an end to his progress. He succeeded in passing entirely around the range and in making a fairly good map of it; and the clear atmospheric conditions after the storm enabled Mr. SELLA, the famous mountain photographer, to obtain a series of magnificent views of these highest of the eastern Himalayas.

It was far to the west that Dr. WORKMAN made his record ascent of 23,394 feet on Pyramid Peak. Last summer he gave to the British Alpine Club his reasons for thinking that Mount Everest is not likely to be conquered in the near future. He believes it cannot be ascended without means of transport superior to any now obtainable, and after prolonged sieges, during which the mountaineers will have to meet and overcome "not only the physical obstacles presented by the peak itself, but also those offered by altitude, heat, cold, snow and wind, which become more accentuated the higher the points attained. One great difficulty is that it is almost impossible to force the coolies who are needed to carry the camp equipment up to a sufficiently high point to make the tops of these highest summits attainable."

Dr. WORKMAN is convinced that the limit of human endurance in extremely rarefied air has been about reached. In his camp at 19,358 feet the whole party was kept awake by lack of air. They would doze off and then awake with a start, gasping for breath. In his opinion, camps must be established at heights of 23,000 to 25,000 feet to attempt the final assault on the summits; and at these elevations, he says, sleep may be entirely prevented or interfered with by deficient oxygenation of the blood to such an extent that a party would be incapacitated from this cause alone from going any higher.

The Mouth of Truth and the Under Dog.

Telling the House the other day of his Great Refusal, the Hon. WILLIAM SULZER revealed how his eagerness for to shine as a friend of the subcanine makes him plenty of hard work:

"I could have been a railroad lawyer had I desired to enter that field of human activity; in fact, I have received one or two offers in my time to devote my energies to that branch of the law. I recollect a very flattering offer made to me a few years ago of $25,000 a year; but I never was very anxious to make money, and I have preferred to pursue the even tenor of the simple life, to work out my professional salvation in my own way and my political career along my own lines. [Laughter.] I work pretty hard here in the halls of Congress, day in and day out, week in and week out, trying to do the right thing for my constituents and the square thing for the good of the people generally throughout the country. I am content with my work; I rather like it. I would not exchange places with any of the opulent members of 'the system.' I have cast my lot along the pleasant sunshiny highways of humanity; but sometimes it seems to me that almost every man in the land who has a grievance, or thinks he has a grievance, comes to me to set things right and to secure him justice. I spend a great deal of valuable time investigating some of these complaints, and it takes much labor to do so conscientiously; but whenever I find a case that is really and truly a worthy cause I do not fear or hesitate to take up the burden of the fight and do the best I can. This may be altruistic, and I know that often my efforts are unappreciated, derided, misconstrued, and futile, but I suppose, nevertheless, that I will go on doing so to the end of my time. [Applause.]

"'I know that the world, that the great big world,
From the pauper up to the king,
Has a different tale from the tale I tell,
And a different song to sing;
But for me, I care not a single fig
If they say I'm wrong or I'm right,
For I'll always go in, if I go in at all,
For the under dog in the fight.'"

[Applause.]

Mr. SULZER is the Washington Mouth of Truth, the lion's mouth into which the complaints and supplications of all the downtrodden and oppressed are cast. He is the storehouse of grievances. He is the fountain of justice. He is the guardian of the orphans of the heart. He is the refuge of solitary thinkers. He is the dispensary of advanced thought. He is busy, but he is happy.

Still, if he keeps on with his great labors, long before "the end of his time" what is now the subcanine will be the supercanine. It is not sure even now that the railroads and other iniquitous and soulless corporations are not the under dog. When that moment comes, if it has not yet come, Mr. SULZER's imperious sympathies for the aggrieved must withdraw him from the pleasant sunshiny ways. The $25,000—it must have been $250,000—will not appeal to him. But when the corporation under dog looks pleadingly at him he will have a different song to sing.

Adulterating the People's Shoes.

Our esteemed contemporary the *Shoe and Leather Reporter* mentions a fact the importance of which reaches far beyond the world of steers and selected dry hides and scoured oak barks:

"The Leather and Paper Laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry in the United States Department of Agriculture has recently examined some samples of sole leather, by direction of Chief WILEY, and investigation will in all probability be continued. In some of the leather analyzed, which was selected at random from standard makers, the actual amount of hide substance was about 10 per cent. lower than good sole leather should contain, while the glucose was about 4 per cent. higher than is usually found in unadulterated, well made sole leather."

The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* says, rather tamely, that "adulterated leather cannot be classed with impure food and drink, excepting by a possible compulsory classification, as is the case with oleomargarine." Why not? Sole leather and steak are often indistinguishable. But even if it be necessary to adopt an arbitrary classification, the Government should prevent adulterated hides. It is good to see that the sleepless WILEY is faithful to his duty. The people's outsides must be protected as well as their insides. Look at the millions of persons who lug sole leather dress suit cases. The moral and sociological effect of 4 per cent. excess of glucose in dress suit cases must be deleterious. Sole leather is intimately connected with the well being of the commonwealth. See how hoary proverbs, reflecting the experience of centuries, are brought to shame. "As good a man as ever stood in sole leather." Can good men stand in adulterated leather? Will they not become adulterated, the excess of glucose passing into them by absorption? "I wouldn't know him from a side of sole leather." The term of comparison fails. What does a side of sole leather contain? What is it? Nobody knows but WILEY.

If sole leather is not germane to the Pure Food bill, a Pure Shoe bill should be made and passed. The feet of a progressive people are at least as important as their stomachs.

There is never any time in politics better than the present time for doing what ought to be done.

According to the records of our Bureau of Navigation the product of American shipbuilding for the last five years, outside of warships, has been as follows:

	Vessels.	Gross tonnage.
1901	1,322	376,129
1902	1,262	429,327
1903	1,159	381,970
1904	1,065	265,104
1905	1,054	306,563

There is nothing to boast of in that record. In 1905 we fell short of 1901 by 268 vessels and 69,566 tons. In the six months ended December 31 last we built 542 vessels of the following classes and tonnage:

	Number.	Tonnage.
Wood, sailing	169	22,228
Wood, steam	318	11,191
Steel, sailing	4	2,551
Steel, steam	51	100,127
Totals	542	136,097

In the last half year of 1904 we built the same number of vessels, but the aggregate tonnage was only 92,598, leaving us 43,499 tons ahead for the last half of 1905.

The 542 vessels built in the six months of 1905 were for the following trades:

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Great Lakes	57	81,094
Atlantic and Gulf	341	47,383
Pacific	58	4,605
Western rivers	84	2,190
Porto Rico	2	15

Not a single vessel was built for the Hawaiian trade. Had it not been that our shipbuilding for the Great Lakes amounted to 30 vessels, of 78,811 tons, in excess of the last half year of 1904, we should have been 30 vessels and 34,812 tons short of the corresponding period of the previous year.

These facts speak for themselves. They speak to the House of Representatives. There is nothing to boast of in the record.

Our Trade With the Western Hemisphere.

The export trade of the United States for the calendar year 1905 a little exceeded the aggregate of export and import business in 1895. In its relation to total volume our commerce with the various countries of the Western Hemisphere remains practically unchanged at about 25 per cent. That is, one-quarter of our foreign commercial transactions in 1895 and in 1905 were with our neighbors of this hemisphere. Our business with those neighbors is in its total within a few dollars of the total of our business with the United Kingdom, both accounts standing a little in excess of $733,000,000. It is also equal to about 80 per cent. of our commerce with the entire continent of Europe.

While in its relation to total volume our Western Hemisphere trade shows little change, a decided difference appears in our analysis of export and import business. In 1895 our exports to our neighbors of North and South America were 18 per cent. of our total. In 1905 they were a little more than 21 per cent. The development of our commerce within this area appears in the following table:

	Import.	Export.	Total.
1895	$256,329,830	$148,396,836	$404,726,666
1905	$386,815,218	$346,464,848	$733,280,066

The argument so frequently used that trade currents run east and west by some vague natural law is not entirely supported by this evidence. The fallacy of the argument is emphasized when there is taken into consideration the comparatively limited population of this enormous area and the actually limited effort put forth by our people to secure what trade there is. We get a goodly share of the trade of Canada, Cuba and Mexico, with whom we trade over a boundary fence, but our fingers reach only too feebly beyond those regions.

Christianity's Growth in India.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a short article which appeared in your issue of February 7, entitled "Facts About India," is this statement: "It is a well known fact, too, that Mohammedanism is making more converts among the Hindus than is Christianity."

While this may be true, it is somewhat misleading. It seems to indicate that Mohammedanism is making greater progress in India than is Christianity. This is very far from being the case. The census of 1901 makes the total number of Mohammedans in India to be 62,458,077. The total number of Christians was 2,923,241, against 1,976,778 ten years before, showing an increase during the decade from 1891 to 1901 of 946,463, an increase of about one-third in ten years. The general increase of the whole population covered by the census from 1891 to 1901 was a little more than 2 per cent. The Mohammedan increase was about 7 per cent., while Christianity increased more than 60 per cent.

The increase of Protestant native Christians for the decade was 82 per cent. Mohammedanism is not spreading rapidly, while Christianity is, and never so rapidly as at the present time. If the rate of increase that has prevailed since 1880 continues for four or five decades to come there will be as many Christians in India alone as there were in the Roman Empire in the time of Constantine in the fourth century, say nine or ten millions. The writer has been for many years a resident in India and knows well the situation there.

J. L. HUMPHREY,
Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.

Elephant Electric Motors.

From Engineering.

A correspondent in India has sent us a copy of the following inquiry that has been received from a native public works department: "We have a number of elephants in the State. I propose to utilize them in working dynamos for six hours every day and generating electricity, to store it in batteries and use it at night for lighting streets. I shall feel obliged if you will please give me the information required in the statement accompanying: 1. How many electrical units will an elephant of ordinary strength, working six hours, produce? 2. Cost of dynamos required. 3. Cost of gear required to work it by elephants. 4. Cost of battery to store the electricity."

The mechanical equivalent of the power of an elephant is probably known in India, but we have not been able to find it in textbooks published here. Probably, as compared with that of a horse, it varies as their respective weights. A central station containing a score of elephants walking round like mill horses, or climbing ramps that slipped away under their feet, would be rather a painful spectacle. Apart from this, however, we see no way in which the enterprising department in question could utilize the source of power at their disposal. We do not suppose elephants could be trained to raise water in their trunks and spurt it on a Pelton wheel; and as we have no means of calculating the force of a jet of this kind, we are not able to recommend this means.

Great Island for Lawyers.

E. W. Howe in Atchison Globe.

The Cingalese are great people to go to law. It is estimated that every native has an average of five lawsuits pending in the petty courts.

Paul Laurence Dunbar.

"Because I had loved so vainly
And sung with such faltering breath,
The Master in infinite mercy
Offers the boon of Death."

Now he lies dead whose heart was one with theirs
Who love the beauty of a lyric word
And thrill with knowledge of a song unheard.
While we who read knew little of the cares
That gripped that patient breast, we took our shares
Of the great human love that in him stirred,
And bade him voice the melodies that gird
The happy, sunny spirit of his prayers.

Nor vainly nor with faltering did he sing,
This master of the dim, forgotten truths;
For many a one has heard and, following
The long trail to the country of his youth,
Buried new sorrows in the old romance
And trod again the measures of the dance.

JAMES OWEN TRYON.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

Facts and Figures in Connection with the Lawmakers of the British Empire.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Napoleon Bonaparte characterized Great Britain as "a nation of shopkeepers" at a time when the British Parliament was almost entirely made up of members of the aristocracy. The new Parliament may be said to be an assembly of "wage earners." Certainly two-thirds of the House consists of men who earn their living. The Prime Minister has a private income of a quarter of a million dollars a year, but the Labor members are paid from their organizations the modest sum of $1,000 a year.

Among the occupations of the new members are three grocers, seven factory hands, five compositors, two stone masons, five carpenters, two shoemakers, one cooper, sixteen miners, one farm laborer, one barge builder, one sailor, one pilot, one railway guard, two blacksmiths, two mechanics, four brewers, four distillers, five newspaper proprietors, eight stock brokers, ten doctors, sixteen bankers, seventeen ship owners, thirty-six journalists, thirty-four working lawyers, 105 barristers, one auctioneer and one insurance agent.

The Labor members are variously estimated at from thirty-four to fifty-four. The difference is accounted for by the fact that some of the Labor members have declared their intention to support the Government, and will consequently take their seats "above the gangway," on the Government side of the House.

As matters now stand, "taking a seat" in Parliament is not so easy a matter. The chamber of the House has only 460 seats, while there are more than 660 members.

The House as it now stands consists of 378 Liberals, 152 Unionists, four Unionist Free Traders, fifty (estimated) Labor members, eighty Irish Nationalists, making a total of 664. These figures do not include the Speaker, who is supposed to have no political bias, nor do they include the return of the late Mr. Higgins, Nationalist member for North Galloway, who died before ballots were counted.

The Tory members were literally "frozen out" in London, for the thermometer fell to 8 degrees below zero.

The "Father of the House" is Mr. G. H. Finch, who has represented Rutland since 1867. Next to him comes Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Premier, who has been a member of the House since 1868.

Thirty-two Jewish candidates went to the polls, and of these sixteen were elected. Hitherto the Jews in Parliament have been Tories, but in the present Parliament twelve out of the sixteen are Liberals. Mr. Herbert Samuel, who is a Jew, is Under Secretary of the Home Department under Mr. Herbert Gladstone.

As the first question to be considered in Parliament is that of religious education in the public schools, it is of importance to note that 176 Nonconformists, apart from the Roman Catholic members, take their seats in the new House of Commons. They are represented in the Cabinet by Mr. Birrell, Mr. James Bryce and Mr. Lloyd George. If on a division of the House on any special question the Labor members and the Nationalists should unite with the Conservatives, the Prime Minister will still have a majority of 88 votes.

Great as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's victory seems, it is not equal to that which was achieved by Earl Grey in 1832, after the passing of the Reform bill, when the Liberals had a clear majority of 370 over the Tories.

It is interesting to observe that Mr. Wong Shing was the only Chinaman who voted at the polls in London. He has a big shop in Lime House. It is not necessary to be naturalized in England in order to vote at an election. The man who pays the taxes gets his vote.

It is not generally known that in the British Government there is "a power behind the throne" in his Majesty's Privy Council, of which the Earl of Crewe is Lord President. The members of this Council are styled Right Honorable, and are appointed by the King from all political parties. The King reserves the power of calling any of these members for consultation on any great question. Consequently in a meeting of the Council he may have for his advisers members of each political party. Great questions, such as a declaration of war, are decided by "his Majesty in Council," and not by the British Parliament. T. P. H.

BROOKLYN, Feb. 13.

Logic and Inspiration.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The concluding words of a letter in last Sunday's SUN, signed "Presbyter," are these:

There never has yet been any theory of the inspiration of the Bible that was as free from embarrassing difficulties as the old one of plenary inspiration. These difficulties can be met by saying that God could not do anything that was wrong, and if we understood all the circumstances we could not object to anything which He is represented as having done.

May we not with equally sound logic say that "there never has yet been any theory of the inspiration of the Bible as free from embarrassing difficulties as the old one of non-inspiration"?

Or again: "God cannot do anything that is right, and if we understood all the circumstances we should object to everything which He is represented as having done."?

I am not trying to compare the two views. My point is that the logic works both ways and therefore proves neither—that is, it proves two mutually contradictory theses which neutralize each other. B.

BOSTON, Feb. 16.

Four Hundred Years of Pope's Swiss Guard.

From the Tablet.

That prince of journalists, Burchard, describes, under the date of January 22, 1506, how he saw a sturdy band of 150 Swiss soldiers enter Rome and receive a most cordial welcome from the reigning Pontiff, Julius II. They were the first band of that famous corps, known as the Swiss Guard, which forms such a characteristic feature of the Vatican life of to-day. This afternoon the fourth centenary of its establishment was celebrated with solemnity in the Vatican, when Cardinal Merry del Val unveiled a commemorative tablet in the barracks of the corps and Herr Vitz, a councillor of the Swiss Federation, delivered an eloquent panegyric on the long career of faithful service rendered to the Roman pontiffs by this chosen bodyguard. He referred to that terrible scene on May 6, 1527 the day which opened the "Sack of Rome" by the Constable of Bourbon. Clement VII. had taken refuge in the Castle of Sant' Angelo, selecting a dozen men of the Swiss Guard to protect his person and leaving the rest, 250 in number, at St. Peter's to endeavor to save the shrine of the Prince of the Apostles from pillage. They were not successful, but they allowed themselves to be hacked to pieces, to the very last man, before the invaders were able to penetrate into the basilica.

For twenty years after that fatal day the Swiss Guard was practically non-existent, but in 1548 250 volunteers again enrolled themselves in the service of the Pope, and from that day until this the corps has remained more or less at that strength. Michelangelo is commonly credited with the design for the picturesque uniform they have worn for the last four centuries—without the slightest foundation. Pius VI. made obedience very hard for his faithful Swiss in 1798, when he ordered them to lay down their arms and permit the French revolutionary troops to penetrate into the Apostolic Palace of the Quirinal. Even Pius IX., hoping to assuage the passions of the Roman mob, consented to disband the Swiss and replace them by a civic guard, but the events of the following months obliged him to reconsider his decision, and the Guard has survived to celebrate its fourth centenary to-day.

Conditional.

Knicker—Cholly wants to wear a mustache.

Bocker—Yes, I hear a millionaire has offered to give him one if he will raise an equal amount.

The Congressman.

Quite a baseball reputation
He possessed in days gone by,
And he hadn't any trouble
Catching twisters on the fly.

He could catch a cold or measles
With no object to attain,
And when living in the suburbs
He could even catch a train.

He could catch the speckled beauties
With his little reel and joint,
And of any joke you told him
He could always catch the point.

His accomplishments here ended,
Though with patience he would try,
For he couldn't, simply couldn't
Ever catch the Speaker's eye.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

CHURCH AND SALOON.

Their Continued Existence Side by Side Declared to Be Impossible.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Surely the day must come when a government of the people, by the people, for the people and calling itself a Christian government will no longer make drunkenness, debauchery and crime a chief source from which to derive its revenues. A house thus divided against itself cannot stand.

The idea thus expressed has been uppermost in my mind for a long time and it is but natural that I should take note of what some people are pleased to call a "reform wave" that seems to be sweeping across the country under the leadership of a few men who have sprung into prominence through their opposition to political corruption and graft. I cannot help thinking that were these men able to succeed to the fullest extent along their several lines very little would be accomplished.

The true reformer looks for the root of the evils against which he fights, and where shall we look for the root of political corruption if not in our policy of legalizing that greatest of all corrupters, the intoxicating beverage traffic? And what is graft but doing wrong for revenue? While the government, whether national, State or municipal, legalizes corruption for graft, it will be found that the poison will extend to corporations, institutions and individuals, because the same citizens constitute them all.

The worst thing about the license system, politically, is that it is a direct violation of our fundamental law. The United States Supreme Court says: "There is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors at retail. It is not the privilege of a citizen of a State, nor of a citizen of the United States." The same court also says: "No Legislature can bargain away the public health or the public morals. The people themselves cannot do this, much less their servants. Government is established for their preservation and cannot divest itself of its power to provide for them."

In view of these decisions it seems impossible that the true patriot can look without alarm upon our policy of liquor legalization, since it not only produces political corruption and graft, but makes its effect felt at the very fountain of social, political and religious life. Who can be socially, politically or religiously pure while he consents to become a party, for any reason, to that which only exists to make men impure in all these respects?

It may be asked, "What is your remedy?" My answer is: "The hope of the world is the Church. She represents Him who came to destroy the works of the devil. She has abundant ability to make demands upon Legislatures and enforce them. She can say license laws must be repealed and they will be. She must say that for the sake of her own life. She must kill license or be killed by it. Men cannot preserve their own spiritual life while they make spiritual life impossible to other men."

Life to the Church and no rights to the saloon! F. M. PALMATIER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

Elastic National Bank Currency.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Eminent bankers have from time to time advanced the view that our currency laws should be changed so that the country would have a more elastic national bank circulation, which would at certain periods of the year furnish ample facilities for the moving of our great crops and prevent our money rates from reaching the high figures of last November and December and it is believed that some of our Treasury officials also advocate the enactment of remedial legislation.

There are, however, some bankers who think that an issue of national bank emergency circulation may not bring about the much desired result nor be a cure for our financial ills *unless an amendment should be made to Section 5191 of the National Bank act*, which amendment should permit all national bank circulation to be counted as a part of a bank's reserve.

That section now provides that the reserve must be in lawful money of the United States, which, as I understand, does not include national bank notes. Nevertheless banks are permitted to count in their reserve certain kinds of notes which have not the legal tender quality in them, such as gold certificates and silver certificates, and country banks can even count their bank balances in reserve cities, which is not money at all, while national bank notes are shut out.

The question naturally arises, Will national bank emergency circulation do what is expected of it, if banks are not allowed to count it with other kinds of money as a part of their reserve?

It surely would take some time to force any large quantity of such emergency notes out into circulation and as the notes themselves could not be loaned it is somewhat doubtful if such emergency circulation would do what some of its advocates claim for it.

During the late stringency in money there was much discussion as to the Secretary of the Treasury placing Government deposits in banks in various parts of the country.

The call made in November last by the Comptroller for national bank statements reveals the fact that about $31,000,000 of national bank notes were in national bank vaults in various parts of the country, which could not be counted as reserve, to say nothing of the amount of such notes in the vaults of State banks and trust companies at the same time, of which no data is at hand.

It is plain that the loaning power of the national banks was thereby curtailed and if this $31,000,000 which was lying idle in their vaults could have been counted as reserve perhaps there would not have been so much discussion about the Government placing $25,000,000 on deposit in the banks.

National bank notes are as good and as certain to be paid as United States gold notes and there are conservative people, who believe that the depositors in banks and the business interests of the country would be entirely safe if national bank notes were counted as reserve.

Why not amend Section 5191?

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. BANKER.

Church Attendance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have not the slightest desire to enter upon a controversy with Dr. H. K. Carroll regarding religious matters, but when he attempts to lower the figures of the Catholic directory census by 2,000,000, to 10,785,496, he is doing what a conservative statistician would not do, inasmuch as the Catholic census is generally acknowledged to be far beneath the mark.

As to Protestant clergymen knowing their communicants better than priests do their people, I am in a position to say as a former Protestant that many "communicants" of non-Catholic churches do not average attendance upon their various places of worship once a month, but the vast bulk of Catholics are to be found in their pews every Sunday morning in the year.

The majority of the people in our block are said to be church members, but it is safe to say that many Sundays they stay at home all day.

CAMDEN, N. J., Feb. 11. FAIR PLAY.

Chance for an Agitation.

From the Raleigh News and Observer.

Why not begin a propaganda to induce every Chinaman to lengthen his shirt one inch? It would be a patriotic movement and would make such an additional demand for American cotton that it would not be necessary for President Moore, Mr. Dockery, Mr. Parker and other leaders of the Southern Cotton Association to be going about the State urging the cotton farmers to keep down the acreage of cotton. If the Chinese would just add this one inch to their shirt and all the Celestials would wear cotton shirts, the South would be put to it to raise enough cotton to meet the demand for cotton at 15 cents a pound.

Let us agitate for longer shirts for the Chinese!

Last Word on Army Pay.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To "National Guard" I would say: "Now will you be good," or if you cannot be good, be accurate. NAVY.

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb 15.

Lear and Others.

Lear was making his remarks on the sharpness of a serpent's tooth.

"That's nothing," replied a modern parent, "just wait till you have paid out $3,000 on your daughter's voice to hear her sing 'Everybody Works But Father.'"

Herewith the King perceived that things really might be worse.

A Curiosity.

Mrs. Flathunter—But where is the room to keep a cook?

Janitor—In the Natural History Mooseum, mum.

Suburban Question.

Stella—How long will your gown be?

Bella—Well, I don't know whether to have the rain made accommodation or express.